

BRAVE SAINTS TAKE ALL THE HONOURS

LITTLE London Spartan League club Chalfont St. Peter gave Wycombe Wanderers quite a few headaches before going down to a two goals-in-two-minutes burst in the second round of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup on Saturday.

Chalfont, currently way out ahead in Division Two of their league, worked like Trojans to throw Wycombe out of their stride and kept their seniors waiting until the 63rd minute for the breakthrough.

Full praise should be given to the Saints in this, their biggest match of the season. They put in a great deal of work in and around the ground and although the crowd figure was below their expected 1,000 they won't

do badly on the financial side. The performance of the team also deserves full credit, for each member of the side gave everything in a bid to topple the local elite. In the end, it was Chalfont who took all the honours.

With a little more application, they could, and should, have put the Saints firmly in their place.

As at Buckingham in the previous round, Wycombe were below full strength. Peter Spittle, Ray Eaton, Derek Cotterill, Dave Alexander, Paul Sussons and Derek Harris all came into

Overall, however, Saints were unable to keep any sort of pressure on their visitors and looked dangerous only on rare occasions. For the most part, they were pinned in their own half trying to hold Wycombe who won most of the possession.

On a pitch that was soft and uneven despite the pre-match work by officials, Wanderers soon drove Chalfont onto the defensive and Ken Woolnough had his name taken by referee Chaffer for disputing a decision after only five minutes.

SAFE HANDLING

The safe handling of goalkeeper John Fancourt helped his side through a nervous first 10 minutes in which time the Blues forced four corners.

Chalfont's continual harassing kept Wanderers at bay for 24 minutes — that's how long it took them to carve out a clear cut chance. A fine through ball from Sussons found Evans but Fancourt got down well to cover the drive. Seconds later Alexander drove wide when well placed.

Although dangerman Garry Harthill, scorer of 21 goals this season, was tightly shackled by Mead and Bullock, centre forward Dave Anderson did well in the first half, especially in the air. But it was right back Jimmy Lofty who caused most of the trouble with his overlaps on the flanks. He also looked one of the few players who could cross the ball accurately.

After Mick Holifield had blazed the ball wildly over the top in the 28th minute, Wycombe's game went from bad to worse. Chalfont grew in confidence and in the 33rd minute, only a superb save from Spittle prevented them going ahead. Eaton fouled Harthill outside the box and Lofty's deflected free kick fell to Tracey Warren who thundered in a drive through a packed goalmouth. Spittle must have seen it late but still managed to stick up a fist and divert the ball over the bar.

With Wanderers still struggling to match Chalfont's work rate, it was the home side who again went closest before half time when Holloway's drive bounced nastily for Spittle.

At the interval, Chalfont must have been delighted with the performance. Chief architects in this fighting display were centre back Warren, who was my man of the match, Jim Lofty and Eric Barnes.

Wycombe's plight continued well into the second half. Never gaining the upper hand in midfield, their distribution was appalling at times and both Alexander and Evans struggled to get into the game. Meanwhile, Saints were still fighting for every ball and although they seldom worried the Wycombe defence, they contested everything and frustrated Wanderers time and again.

Then suddenly, two goals in quick time ended the match as a contest. The first came after 63 minutes. Evans and Alexander combined well, 'Alex' taking the ball to the bye-line before crossing over the defence to the far post. Derek Harris was virtually on the line and unmarked when he nodded simply home. Two minutes later a corner was only half cleared by the home side and Mead pounced to drive home through a packed goalmouth. Both goals were unspectacular, in keeping with the general mode of play.

Wycombe, now almost assured of victory, did just enough and no more to see the game through and errors were still commonplace. Anderson, who seemed to lose heart towards the end, went close to pulling back a goal in the closing stages while Fancourt, struggling with a second half shoulder injury, pulled off a flying save from Evans.

Although Chalfont St. Peter predictably finished losers, they went a long way to erasing the memories of that 9-0 defeat at Lakes Park three years ago in the same competition and deserve every credit for a fighting performance.

CHALFONT: J. Fancourt; J. Lofty, T. Warren, E. Barnes (sub P. Jarrett 83 mins), D. Scott (sub D. Trezise 65 mins); I. Duncombe, R. Carroll, K. Woolnough; S. Holloway, D. Anderson, G. Harthill.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, D. Bullock, R. Eaton; D. Alexander, D. Cotterill, P. Sussons; D. Evans, D. Harris, M. Holifield. Subs H. Kennedy, A. Horsemann (not used).

Referee: R. Chaffer (Windsor).
Half time: 0-0. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Harris (63). Mead (65).

Approximate attendance: 600.

Chalfont St. Peter 0, Wycombe Wanderers 2

Report by STUART EARP

That two-goal burst was enough to see Wycombe through but the Blues won few friends at the Playing Fields. They hardly looked interested and seemed to regard the game as something of a nuisance after their F.A. Cup clash at Ninian Park, Cardiff the previous week. I suppose it was inevitable that such a drop in standards would bring a below par performance but their football was extremely poor at times.

the side while regulars John Maskell, John Delaney, Tony Horseman and others had a rare Saturday off.

Inevitably, the many changes meant that the team took a long time to settle and mistakes were rampant, especially in the first half. This was the time for Chalfont to capitalise and had it not been for one marvellous save by Peter Spittle, Chalfont would certainly have led at the interval.